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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORTS REVEAL SERIOUS DEFECTS IN LAND-REFORM CADRE LEADERSHIP;  
COMPLETION OF LAND REFORM IN SEVERAL LARGE AREAS REPORTED

Many weaknesses of land-reform cadres in Kwangtung were revealed in a recent cadre conference. They included pride and self-satisfaction in partial accomplishments, failure to make secure the leadership of the poor and hired farmer classes, and failure to overthrow the landlords. There were also cases of corruption and embezzlement, confusion in plans, and failure to clean out reactionary elements. Reform along all these lines was promised by those present.

The problems of increasing production in Honan after land reform will require continued aggressive action by cadres. It will be tied up with the Resist-America, Aid-Korea Movement and patriotic pact movements, training of cadres for intelligent leadership in farming, encouragement of all progressive activities of the farmers themselves, and thorough organization.

Land reform in East China has reached basic completion in 297  
hsiens comprising 87 percent of the territory and affecting 85.9 per-  
cent of the population. New titles are being issued.

In Honan, land reform, basically completed for the province, has resulted in distribution of 18,900,000 mou (one mou equals 1/6 acre) of land, 2,260,000 room units of housing, 3,346,000 animals, 4,600,000 tools and implements, and 311 million catties of grain to the peasants. The stubborn opposition of landlords was overcome by the prompt action of the people's courts.

Some 933 PLA army personnel recently took part in land-reform work in Kwangtung.

Land reform has been completed in 35 hsiens of Kwangsi, affecting the livelihood of 3.8 million people. As a result, 1,650,000 mou of land, nearly 50 million catties of grain, 817,925 implements, etc., were distributed, as well as large quantities of treasure in gold and silver. The average allotment of land to peasants was 1.2 mou per person.

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Vice-chairman Fang Fang of Kwangtung has indicated that the Kwangtung Provincial government is postponing all other business, as far as possible, to place government machinery and personnel behind the land-reform program.

CONFERENCE DISCUSSES FAULTY LAND-REFORM PRACTICES IN KWANGTUNG -- Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 26 Jul 51

At a conference of land-reform cadres held from 11 - 14 July in Ch'eng-hai Hsien, Kwangtung, it was revealed that after 37 million market catties of grain had been refunded to the people by the landlords in the rent reduction and rent deposit refund campaign, the cadres became proud and self-satisfied and did not push the movement forward. They failed to arouse the masses, failed to secure the leadership of the agricultural population for the poor and hired farmer classes, and failed to do thorough work in the struggle against the landlords or to investigate conditions further. Furthermore, there were cases of speculation and misappropriation of the grain received. There were conflicting plans for using the grain, some wishing to buy agricultural implements while others used their collections to buy entertainment equipment. In some cases, leadership was given to untrustworthy characters and former KMT officials and counselors. Also in some cases, not more than 10 percent of the members of poor and hired farmers' cells were actually poor and hired farmers.

After study of these problems, those present at the conference pledged themselves to oppose pride and self-satisfaction, formalism, and oversimplification of their duties. They agreed to regard as important the organization of peasant groups, dependence by the cadres on the poor and hired farmers, a critical attitude toward one's work, and constant reflection on current conditions. They decided to carry out careful investigation as to whether or not: (1) the feudal system has been overthrown, (2) the peasants are united, (3) the poor and hired farmers have secured control of affairs, (4) the peasants are armed, and (5) the cadres are democratic.

EDITORIAL SAYS LAND-REFORM CADRES NEED RECTIFICATION -- Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 3 Aug 51

Between each phase of the land-reform movement it is well to pause for consideration of the present state of our cadres. While the rank and file are dependable, we know that undependable elements are continually trying and too frequently succeeding in getting into the ranks of the cadres. It is necessary, therefore, to be constantly checking on the cadres.

One method is by holding conferences of cadres for criticism and self-criticism. Another method is to secure the opinions of the people's delegates on the various levels. Frequently they are able to point out danger spots among personnel when they know that their advice is welcome.

The success of the people's movement depends largely upon the dependability and faithfulness of the cadres, hence the matter of keeping the ranks clean must be a constant goal.

DECLARES LEADERSHIP QUALITIES OF HONAN LAND-REFORM CADRES DEFECTIVE -- Kaifeng, Honan Jih-pao, 23 Jun 51

Experience has shown that proceeding from land reform into high agricultural production is by no means an easy thing to accomplish. It will require great effort.

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At present, in Honan the people have a progressive spirit, but efficient leadership is lacking. Hsien leadership, hsiang leadership, and the thinking of the people are three great problems which may be discussed under six sub-heads as follows:

1. The tendency of the cadres to slacken in their efforts after accomplishing one phase of their task must be overcome. The cadres tend to feel that since the land reform has been accomplished, production increases will come as a natural result. They believe that they will be transferred to some other area where land-reform work is in progress, and so spend their time wondering about their future instead of carrying on day by day the task at hand. Some hope to get transferred to a city job where life will be easier. They should remember that decisions regarding transfers are the prerogatives of the higher authorities, and their speculation will make no difference.

2. The failure of cadres to reorganize and carry on the most important task must be corrected. There is no question that increasing agricultural production following land reform is the central task and a long-range one. The leaders tend to get tangled in a maze of various programs, all of which seem important, and forget the real task.

3. The problem of effective propaganda concerns the production-increase policy. At present, it must be tied in with the Resist-America, Aid-Korea movement, and the patriotic pacts programs. This is not a matter that can be accomplished by a single promotion campaign. It must be brought before the people again and again before they can absorb it all. Holding frequent meetings of the people's delegates is a very important and useful method of disseminating propaganda.

4. A great many leaders have no notion of where to start in promoting production. This makes it evident that leaders must be trained to recognize the important aspects of each area's agricultural situation and to know what to do to promote production of the main crops. They cannot hope to lead if they know less than the farmers themselves. They must be willing to identify themselves wholeheartedly with the people's interests.

Much can be done by publicizing the work of progressive farmers in the newspapers. This will encourage them to go forward and encourage others to follow.

Development of selected areas and the promotion of emulation and competition and discussion meetings of farmers should all be fruitful methods of increasing production.

5. There should be improvement in leadership on the hsiang level. Many cadres have a tendency to become so involved with the mechanics of their leadership that they have no time for production activities. Others are unwilling to delegate authority to subordinates. Leaders must learn to curb their obsession with their own importance and delegate many time-consuming items to others. Plans which contribute only partly to immediate production should be held in abeyance. In busy seasons cadres should engage in production by day and do office work at night.

6. Organization is very important to the success of the plan to bring prosperity to the peasants. Use should be made of organizations already in existence among farmers with a view to improving and enlarging them. Temporary setbacks should not be cause for alarm. -- Han Ching-ts'ao

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LAND REFORM BASICALLY COMPLETED IN EAST CHINA -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao,  
17 Jun 51

(Hsin-hua) -- Since its inception in mid-December 1950 the land-reform program in East China has reached basic completion in 297 hsiens (hsiens where the program is not complete are not included in the above figure) or about 81 percent of the whole East China area, affecting 105 million people or 85.7 percent of the total population.

New land titles have been issued in Shantung and North Kiangsu (older liberated areas) and the process is moving forward on an experimental basis in the newly liberated sections. -- Ku Hung

PEOPLE'S COURTS HANDLE STUBBORN LANDLORDS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 24 Jun 51

There was particularly stubborn and subversive opposition from the landlords in Honan to the land reform, but the 87 people's courts and 480 branch courts handled the 7,811 cases of land-reform litigation with dispatch and meted out severe justice to the evil landlords and counterrevolutionaries.

Land reform, which has been carried out in three stages in Honan since late 1949, has resulted in redistribution of 18,900,000 mou of land, 2,260,000 room units of housing, 3,346,000 animals, 4,600,000 tools and implements, and 311,000,000 catties of grain to the agricultural people of 87 hsiens. Seven million people who have been housed in grass huts and old temple buildings now have better housing; a million folk, who because of the misrule of the KMT had become hopeless vagabonds, now have a place to live with their re-established families and with land for their support. Sixty percent of the farming population received an average of 3 mou of land per person.

In the civic field, many peasants have been elected to local government offices, and between 30 and 40 percent of the farm population are members of the peasant's associations.

KWANGSI LAND REFORM COMPLETED IN 35 HSIENS -- New York, Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao,  
6 Aug 51

Nan-ning -- Since mid-December 1950, land reform has been completed in 35 hsiens of Kwangsi, affecting the livelihood of 3,800,000 people. In the process, land confiscated and redistributed amounted to 1,650,000 mou; excess grain confiscated amounted to 48,799,813 catties; 45,203 work cattle, 117,275 room units of buildings, and 817,925 implements were distributed. In addition, clothing and money were surrendered. In one hsien alone, 93 ounces of gold, 129 catties of silver, and 9,475 silver yuan were recovered. Poor and hired farmer families to the number of 350,000 and some middle-class farm families received land ranging from 0.6 mou to 2 mou per person, the average being approximately 1.2 mou. An average of 300 catties of grain per family and one work animal for each 10 persons were distributed.

The emancipated farmers have already shown great interest in better cultivation and improvement of irrigation works. Millions of catties of crops can be added to production through these efforts.

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LAND REFORM TO BE FIRST IN KWANGTUNG -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 10 Aug 51

Canton, 9 August -- Vice-Chairman Fang Fang of Kwangtung indicated in a report to a Provincial Administrative Council meeting on 22 June that the whole machinery of the Provincial government would be thrown into the task of completion of the land-reform program in Kwangtung. Every department is to devote itself to promoting the phase of land reform most in keeping with its responsibilities. All home defense agencies must reduce their ordinary operations to the minimum in order to release personnel into the land reform work. Some departments may be able to carry on for other departments. All matters not of top importance should be laid aside for the present. All programs that might interfere with the land reform program must be dropped.

ARMY UNITS AID LAND REFORM IN KWANGTUNG -- Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 4 Aug 51

Men of the Tung-chiang, Kwangtung, Military garrison troops to the number of 933 took part in land reform work during May 1951 with good results, not only in pushing forward the preliminary phases of that program, but also in bringing about closer affinity between the military and civilians. The soldiers shared their rations with poor peasants, tried to learn the local speech, got acquainted with and worked in unison with the local cadres, and in many cases were able to furnish advice and energy that enabled local land reform workers, who were failing, to put over the program.

A good many of these military workers plan to take part in the summer grain tax collection and then go on to carry the land reform program to completion.

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